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J&K's natural wealth...**

contributions of both Scientists and Poets. To me, poetry forms a corridor linking the tangible with the ethereal. It is the craft that navigates us through existence and carries us across life's expanse from familiar ground to undiscovered territory. Poetry springs to life when inner emotions transcend verbal expression. A poet's language evolves beyond simple communication and it reverberates with existence's rhythm. In my view, poetry emerges precisely when raw feeling crystallizes into articulate form," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor stated that culture provides direction to the soul, while economic empowerment grants it stability. He emphasised that a harmonious, progressive, and self-reliant society emerges solely from the balance of these two dimensions. "We possess natural resources, human capability, and rich cultural heritage. Our sole need is wise and deliberate deployment of these resources. Achieving this will enable Jammu Kashmir to realize the people's dreams while serving as a catalyst for national advancement," the Lieutenant Governor said. Padma Shri Dr SP Varma; Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Brij Mohan Sharma, Principal Secretary Culture; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shakti Kumar Pathak, Director Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB); Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range; Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNC; Harvinder Kour, Secretary JKAACL, senior officers of Police and Civil Administration, prominent literary personalities and people from different walks of life attended the Kavi sammelan.

Laeq, Aejaz, Sunita...

with outstanding APRs throughout his service career: He is a recipient of the DGP Commendation Medal, Sher-e-Kashmir Police Medal for Meritorious Service, and the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service. He has also remained associated with various committees of the Home and Police Departments and has served as a member of several Police Recruitment Boards. Aejaz Ahmad Bhat, presently posted as Joint Director, Prosecution Headquarters J&K, is a recipient of the President's Police Medal for Meritorious Service and has an unblemished service record. The officer is retiring on 31 January 2026. Sunita Kargotra, presently posted as Joint Director, Prosecution ACB J&K, has an outstanding service career and is known for her integrity, dedication, and professionalism.

CRPF jawan among...

colliding with a load carrier, which was parked nearby and being repaired by a mechanic. The mechanic and the load carrier driver died on the spot, while two people travelling in the bus were thrown out of the emergency window and died on the way to hospital, they said. Those killed have been identified as Sanjeev Kumar, a mechanic from Udhampur; Rayes Ahmad from Badgam and Mukesh Prajapati, a CRPF jawan who was posted in Kishtwar and was going to his home in Madhya Pradesh on leave. Binla Devi, who was also travelling in the bus, was also injured in the accident. She has been admitted to Government Medical College Hospital in Udhampur, the officials said. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah have expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident. In a condolence message, the Lt Governor has said, "I am deeply pained by the loss of precious lives in the tragic road accident in Udhampur. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured." Chief Minister Abdullah also extended heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for strength to them in this difficult time. Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Information Technology, Satish Sharma, also expressed profound grief over the tragic road accident. In his condolence message, the Minister said, "I am deeply saddened by the unfortunate road accident in Udhampur. The loss of innocent lives is extremely painful. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. I pray to the Almighty to grant eternal peace to the departed souls and for the speedy recovery of the injured." Satish Sharma directed the concerned departments to ensure that all necessary medical care and assistance is provided to the injured without delay. The Minister also reiterated the Government's commitment to enhancing road safety measures across Jammu and Kashmir and appealed to the public to strictly adhere to traffic norms to avoid such tragic incidents. Meanwhile, as part of its drive to curb traffic violations, Police in Jammu have registered a case after an overloaded mini-bus was found being driven in a rash and negligent manner, posing a serious threat to human life and public safety. The action was taken by Police Station Jhajjar Kotli after a mini bus was found violating traffic norms, a police spokesman said, adding the vehicle was overloaded and driven recklessly, endangering the safety of passengers as well as other road users.

Speaker interacts with media fraternity ahead of Budget session

Emphasizes smooth, responsible coverage of House proceedings

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather on Tuesday held a meeting with the media personnel of different news organisations at the Assembly Secretariat Jammu to facilitate smooth and efficient coverage of the forthcoming Assembly session starting from February 2, 2026.

The interaction was aimed at fostering better coordination and ensuring smooth, accurate and responsible coverage of proceedings of the House.

During the interaction, the Speaker emphasized the important role of the media in strengthening democratic institutions and keeping the public informed about legislative business. He highlighted the need for mutual cooperation between the Chair and the media to facilitate seamless coverage while maintaining the dignity, decorum and traditions of the House.

The Speaker said that the media acts as a vital bridge between the people and the legislature, ensuring the citizens remain aware of policies, discussions and decisions that shape governance across

Jammu and Kashmir.

Recognizing the significance of media in highlighting public issues, the Speaker sought cooperation from media houses for balanced and responsible reporting of the Session. He emphasized the critical role of journalists in ensuring transparency and public awareness of legislative discussions and advised them to keep public interests paramount while discharging their professional assignments.

The Speaker discussed various issues concerning media professionals, identifying additional requirements to enhance their working environment during the session. The deliberations also focused on ensuring hassle-free entry of media persons to the Legislative Assembly premises and as well as their facilitation for smooth coverage of the session. The Speaker informed the media that pending work on the New Legislative Assembly Complex will be started soon and shall be completed within 18 months. He also said that National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) will be partially introduced in this session to encourage paperless functioning. He



Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather chairing meeting in Jammu.

added that NeVA will be fully implemented in the next assembly session.

While reviewing the arrangements for media personal, the Speaker emphasized the importance of taking necessary measures to prevent inconvenience to journalists covering the proceedings. He instructed the Assembly Secretariat officers to prepare and issue entry passes for journalists in coordination with the Information Department well in advance for their unhindered entry into the assembly complex. To enhance media accessibility, the Speaker directed the Information department to install sufficient number of microphones

and Public Address Systems (PAS) within the Assembly Hall, facilitating smooth interaction between the dignitaries, Ministers, legislative assembly members and the journalists.

The Speaker directed the Hospitality & Protocol department to install Shamyana for press briefings and interviews by the MLAs and Ministers.

The Speaker also directed the SSP Security, Civil Secretariat to ensure hassle free entry of media persons along with appropriate parking arrangements near the Assembly Secretariat.

The IT department was directed to ensure WiFi and internet services with high speed so that the media per-

sons, Legislators and employees may not face any inconvenience during the session.

Representatives of both print and electronic media expressed their appreciation for the Speaker's proactive approach. They shared valuable inputs on improving accessibility and communication channels between the media and the Assembly Secretariat. They highlighted

key concerns like designating parking spaces, entry passes, provision of high-speed Wi-Fi for seamless coverage and extension of other logistical support. In response to concerns raised by the media fraternity, the Speaker assured them that the highlighted issues would be addressed promptly. He said the Assembly Secretariat remains committed to ensure a conducive environment for media persons to discharge their professional duties. The meeting was attended by Director Information, Nitish Rajora; Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita, SSP Civil Secretariat Security Sajjad Bhat, SSP Traffic Amit Bhasin alongwith veteran Journalists, Bureau Chiefs, senior journalists and correspondents besides representatives of All India Radio, Doordarshan and other concerned officers.

Overseas job fraud: CB Jammu registers case

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Special Crime Wing Crime Branch Jammu has registered a formal case in connection with an alleged overseas employment fraud involving false assurances of arranging a work visa and employment in Russia. According to a statement, a written complaint was lodged by the complainant alleging that the accused Vishal Singh @ Vishal Manhas, son of Kuldeep Singh resident of H. No. 812, Suryavanshi Nagar, Muthi, Jammu, fraudulently and dishonestly induced him on the false pretext of arranging a work visa and employment in Russia, thereby inducing the complainant to part with a substantial amount of money. It was alleged that, relying upon the assurances and promises of the accused, the complainant paid a total amount of Rs. 10,05,000. During verification, it was established that an amount of Rs. 7,86,500/- was transferred into the personal bank account of the accused, Rs. 49,999/- was paid to Maarg Group Agency, Mohali, Chandigarh, while the remaining amount was paid in cash to the accused. Further, it was alleged that the accused was not holding any valid authorization or license for overseas employment. Contrary to his assurances, the accused arranged only a tourist e-visa and sent the complainant first to Dubai and thereafter to Russia, where the complainant stayed for about two months during the year 2025. The accused failed to arrange any employment and, despite repeated requests, did not refund the amount received. It was also alleged that the accused threatened the complainant with false implication.

On receipt of the complaint, a preliminary enquiry was conducted, which established that the accused, with dishonest intention from the very inception, adopted fraudulent means, misrepresented facts, and deceived the complainant, thereby wrongfully extracting Rs. 10,05,000/- without fulfilling the assurance of overseas employment. The acts of omission and commission on the part of the accused Vishal Singh @ Vishal Manhas prima facie constitute offences punishable under Section 318(4) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Accordingly, a formal case has been registered at Police Station Special Crime Wing, Crime Branch Jammu, and further investigation of the case is going on.

JU celebrates 77th Republic Day; VC highlights academic, research, students milestones



STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The University of Jammu celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour at the University campus. Prof. Umesh Rai, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, unfurled the National Flag in the presence of Deans, senior faculty members, officers, staff, scholars, students, NCC cadets, security person-

nel and other members of the University fraternity.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-Chancellor paid tributes to the architects of the Indian Constitution, freedom fighters and martyrs, and saluted the sacrifices of the Armed Forces, paramilitary forces and police personnel who continue to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, particularly in this region.

Meanwhile, Taushi branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad, J&K Prant celebrated 77th Republic Day on 26th of January 2026, at Baby Caterers Chowk, Rehari Colony Jammu with great enthusiasm and patriotic zeal. Ajay Khajuria (JKAS Retd), President, BVP Taushi Shakra unfurled the National Flag on the occasion in presence of distinguished members of the

Parishad branch and citizens of the locality, who actively participated in the festivities.

Prominent members of the Taushi branch who participated and contributed to the success of the National Festival included Jagmohan Sharma, Secretary, C M Sharma, Sanskar Pramukh, Ashok Gupta, Krishi Vikas Pramukh, Vinod Kumar; Jt Secretary, Vinod Sharma and others.



Put national interest first in every decision: LG to IRMS officer trainees

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha interacted with Indian Railway Management Service (IRMS) Officer Trainees at Lok Bhavan Jammu.

During the interactive session, the Lieutenant Governor shared his insights on the evolving landscape of mobility and exhorted the young officers to focus on developing tech-inspired railway infrastructure for developed India.

"Indian Railways transcends tracks and Infrastructure and it pulses as the very circulatory system of India's aspirations. This vast network drives economic expansion, weaves social cohesion, and binds our nation as one.

From formidable mountain

heights to remote rural habitation, Indian Railways threads together industry and marketplace while energizing the everyday lives of millions," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the need for harnessing the wealth of operational, passenger, and freight data through scientific analysis to transform service delivery. He said, this tech and intelligence-driven approach will sharpen demand forecasting, help in optimizing resource allocation, help in reducing accident risks, and strengthen infrastructure.

"Smart technology holds the key to reimagining Indian Railways as a sleek, passenger-first mobility powerhouse for 21st Century.

India's economy continues



to grow, our cities are expanding and the demand for logistics steadily intensifies. Indian Railways is evolving to be swifter, safer and more dependable, with our emphasis placed on enhanced operations and optimal resource deployment," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the crucial role of reforms and technology in the freight sector. "Dedicated freight corridors, modern logistics terminals, and integrated digital platforms can make freight transport faster, cheaper, and more competitive. It will reduce the cost for industries and give impetus to the

Indian economy," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He highlighted that developing a multimodal logistics network by linking rail with road and other modes of transport is the need of the future.

The Lieutenant Governor extended his best wishes to the Officer Trainees and encouraged them to look into

fresh challenges and promising opportunities.

"Keep national interest paramount. Every file, every decision, and every order you make must have the ultimate objective of serving the nation and building a developed India," he said.

The IRMS Officer Trainees are on their visit to the UT of Jammu Kashmir as a part of Bharat Darshan.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Course Directors- Rahul, Professor (Traffic Planning & Costing) and Praunjyala Parth Lathe, Professor (Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Indian Railways Institute of Transport Management and other senior officials were also present.

CSIR-IIIM Jammu celebrates 77th Republic Day with patriotism, Science & Culture

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu, celebrated the 77th Republic Day with patriotic fervour, scientific resolve and vibrant cultural expressions at its campus here on Sunday.

The celebrations began with a guard of honour followed by the hoisting of the National Tricolour by Director CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, who presided over the event in the presence of scientific, technical and administrative staff, students and invited guests.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Ahmed reflected on the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the vision of the makers of the Indian Constitution, underlining the responsibility of scientific institutions in nation-building.

He said Republic Day was



not only a moment to remember the past but also an opportunity to prepare future generations to contribute to the country's scientific, social and economic progress.

Highlighting constitutional values, Dr Ahmed spoke about justice, liberty, equality and fraternity, along with the importance of fundamental duties.

He urged students, particularly those from Regional

Research Laboratory (RRL) High School, to adopt discipline, scientific temper and a sense of responsibility as India moves towards its goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Director also paid tribute to the armed and security forces for their sacrifices in safeguarding the nation, noting that peace and progress were possible due to their constant vigilance, even under extreme conditions.

Republic Day observances

were also held at CSIR-IIIM's Srinagar branch laboratory and other field stations, reflecting the institute's collective spirit across locations. Prominent personalities present at the event included Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist and Head, RMBD & IST Division and CSIR-IIIM Branch Srinagar; Dr Asha Chaubey, Chief Scientist and Head, Fermentation and Microbial Biotechnology Division; Dr Suphla B Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division; Dr Dhiraj Vyas, Senior Principal Scientist and Head, Plant Sciences and Agrotechnology Division; Dr Sumit G Gandhi, Senior Principal Scientist and Head, Infectious Diseases Division and Dr Amit Nargotra, Senior Principal Scientist.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh on Monday celebrated the 77th Republic Day with great splendour, patriotic fervour and an atmosphere brimming with national pride at the High Court Complex, Jammu.

Chief Justice High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, unfurled the National Flag, marking the formal commencement of the ceremony. As the Tricolour ascended majestically, the band contingent presented a dignified and stirring rendition of the National Anthem, followed by melodious patriotic tunes that echoed across the premises and invoked a deep sense of devotion among those present. The ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar,



Justice Sanjay Dhar, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Sanjay Parihar and the spouses of the Judges, whose presence added warmth, dignity and ceremonial grandeur to the occasion. This year's celebration witnessed a historic turnout becoming the largest ever Republic Day gathering at the High Court.

Among those present were

the Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs; Senior Advocates; Deputy Solicitor Generals of India for the Jammu and Srinagar Wings of the High Court; Government Advocates; President of the High Court Bar Association, Jammu, along with his team and President of the Young Lawyers Association with its members. The participation

of hundreds of advocates reflected the legal fraternity's enthusiastic and heartfelt response to the event.

M K Sharma, Registrar General, along with other officers and officials of the High Court Registry were also in attendance. The Principal District & Sessions Judge, Jammu and Judicial Officers and officials of Jammu district marked their presence in significant numbers, symbolising institutional solidarity and collective commitment to constitutional values. The spirit of the occasion resonated powerfully as members of the Bar, Bench and Registry came together, making the celebration both inspiring and memorable. The event stood as a testament to the High Court's enduring dedication to upholding the Constitution and strengthening the rule of law.